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Students David Small, l., Tori Jones, and Lorenzo Hopper, from ECU’s Volunteer and Service Learning Center, work on preparing a playground at Operation Sunshine in Greenville for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day on Monday morning. The students are participating in a coordinated Day of Service to honor King's legacy of community development while supporting Operation Sunshine's after-school program for young girls. (Rob Taylor/The Daily Reflector)

**ECU students use off day to volunteer**

By Jackie Drake

Students at East Carolina University decided to use their day off to honor Martin Luther King by going to work in the community.

More than 120 students volunteered at agencies throughout the county on Monday in a day of service coordinated by the ECU Volunteer and Service-Learning Center. Coinciding with the federal holiday honoring the slain civil rights leader, the annual event gives students an opportunity to live out King’s legacy by transforming his teachings into actions.

“Martin Luther King was all about developing community,” Shawn Moore, community partner coordinator, said. “He had a dream of community spirit, of everyone helping everyone else. He was about community action to address social problems.”

After meeting at Mendenhall Student Center in the morning, students dispersed to several sites including the food bank, Salvation Army, Humane Society, Red Cross, A Time for Science in Ayden and Operation Sunshine, an after-school program for girls in Greenville.

“There’s something for everyone,” Moore said. “It shows students all different ways to serve the community.”
The event has “grown progressively,” according to Moore, starting with 30 students and hitting 150 in some years.

“It’s always been such a great day,” Moore said. “It’s a great way to start the year, it helps them think in a broader sense.”

The hope is that students will continue volunteering throughout their time on campus, Moore said.

“One day may not be enough to solve all the problems, but students can see the need and say, ‘What can I do?’” she said.

Contact Jackie Drake at jdrake@reflector.com or 252-329-9567.
Dr. Tom Irons gives the keynote address during the Community Unity breakfast at ECU on Monday morning. (Rhett Butler)

“I remember his insistence that the only hope we have is in loving one another, that the only answer we have available against violence is non-violence, and the only hope we have for our society to recover the moral high ground is to set aside our material selfishness and turn outside of ourselves toward others.”

Dr. Thomas Irons
ECU associate vice chancellor for health sciences and professor of pediatrics

Locals seek unity on King Day

By Michael Abramowitz

An authentic life is one lived in service to others, the keynote speaker said Monday at the 15th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day Community Unity Breakfast at East Carolina University’s Murphy Center.

The theme of this year’s breakfast, hosted by the Greenville-Pitt County Chamber of Commerce, reflected on King’s example to Americans of personal service to his community and nation and his sacrifice for the causes of liberty and justice.

No one in Greenville personify that theme more than keynote speaker and lifelong resident Dr. Thomas Irons, ECU associate vice chancellor for health
sciences and professor of pediatrics, said Virginia Hardy, the university’s vice chancellor for student affairs.

Irons reminded the guests of a quote from King: “Life’s most persistent and urgent question is, ‘What are you doing for others?’”

Irons shared anecdotes of how his parents, both physicians, taught him lessons about community service and respect for all people. He echoed King’s sentiment by telling his audience that “to live authentically is to serve, and when we are serving, we are living.”

Irons said the most important step toward individual and community maturity is the ability to subjugate one’s personal needs for the betterment of others.

The pediatrician again quoted King, saying, “10,000 fools proclaim themselves into obscurity, while one wise man forgets himself into immortality. We are here today about forgetting ourselves.”

After his official presentation, Irons reflected on his personal memories of King.

“I remember his insistence that the only hope we have is in loving one another, that the only answer we have available against violence is non-violence, and the only hope we have for our society to recover the moral high ground is to set aside our material selfishness and turn outside of ourselves toward others,” Irons said.

Greenville Mayor Allen Thomas told the audience of several hundred, including many elected and university officials, that despite their challenges, the diversity among the city’s leaders is an example of progress for all the community to proudly follow.

“I hope we all remember the true importance of this day and Dr. King’s legacy,” Thomas said.

Susanne Sartelle, president of the chamber of commerce, closed the breakfast by telling guests about the city’s “overwhelming and frightening” poverty level of about 26 percent.

“So many people wonder what they can do to help. The answer is to do for one what you wish you could do for many,” Sartelle said.

The breakfast was followed by a commemorative march from Thomas Foreman Park to the Pitt County Courthouse and a rally sponsored independently by the Pitt County Coalition Against Racism.
The rally focused attention on the struggles of the working class, for whom King frequently advocated, with presentations by Greenville sanitation workers, who pledged to continue their efforts for improved working conditions. Pastor Randy Royal of Phillippi Church of Christ reminded the audience that King was in Memphis, Tenn., advocating for sanitation workers when he was assassinated.

Representatives from the N.C. Hear Our Public Employees (HOPE) Coalition, Public Service Workers’ Union Local 150 and the N.C. Association of Educators also appraised attendees about the state of organizing efforts in North Carolina. Their goal is the repeal of the state law that prohibits collective bargaining for public workers, said Ashaki Benta of the United Electrical Workers and Black Workers for Justice.

Thomas pledged his and the Greenville City Council’s unified efforts to provide dignity and justice for all and to work for policies that give all residents an opportunity for success.

Contact Michael Abramowitz at mabramowitz@reflector.com or 252-329-9571.
Clark: Photos reveal need for wiser heads

East Carolina University’s decision to fire Paul Isom, student media adviser, certainly appears to be the by-product of a bad editorial decision by the student editors of the campus newspaper. If there is more to it than that, Isom’s university colleagues, the students and the rest of us may never fully know.

That’s because the whole thing now resides in a purgatory called “personnel matters” — a place generally impervious to public records law. In other words, the university is not completely at liberty to tell its side of this story, whatever it might be, without special consideration.

The unfortunate result is an information vacuum that leads to speculation and conclusion jumping, and the university becomes the bad guy — in this case, the institutional demagogue running roughshod over First Amendment rights of free expression.

None of this does the community any good. Once again, the impression that finds its way along today’s electronic tributaries to the Twittering masses is that people down this way just don’t know any better — a misperception not unlike ECU’s enduring status as a nationally ranked party school.

Appearances like these are pernicious and hard to shed. They are especially troublesome when undeserved as these are.

The back story here is that the student newspaper published across its front page uncensored photos of last November’s streaker at an ECU football game. One picture fully revealed the miscreant’s manhood. This was a bad decision, no matter how you figure it, although on an especially forgiving day one might excuse the editors with a nod to their youth and enthusiasm for free expression.

Two months later, ECU terminated Isom, who said he knew the students had the pictures but it’s not clear if he was involved in their discussion about them. He said he was given no reason for his firing, and he maintains his performance reviews contained nothing that would suggest ill winds were blowing. He did say officials were not happy following the photos’ publication. No surprise there.
Since the firing there has been much hand-wringing about how Isom had no power to quash the pictures and that his termination was a retaliatory act, a direct and unfair result of the pictures’ publication and represented an attack on free speech. A number of national journalism groups have “demanded” that the university reinstate him.

Late last week the university said it wanted to release Isom’s personnel file, which would show the process it followed in the adviser’s dismissal and help clarify the distinction, officials said, between a personnel issue and First Amendment questions.

We’ll hope that such further disclosures will diminish the damage done so far, but likely at least some of the stain made by this incident will resist easy cleansing.

It’s hard to say much more about all this without knowing the deep background facts, which will remain known only to the university and Isom regardless of any new information that might come out. But it is clear that it all started with one bad decision, the one the students apparently made on their own.

It’s just too bad that in the editorial discussions that led to that decision, a wiser and more experienced hand was not around or did not see fit to use appropriately subtle mentorship to guide the student editors toward a more prudent and sophisticated news direction that day.

That’s what the university — and the community that surrounds it — should expect going forward.

Al Clark is executive editor of The Daily Reflector. Contact him at aclark@reflector.com or at 252-329-9560.
No nudes isn't always good news

BY BOB KOCHERSBERGER

RALEIGH—The student newspaper situation at East Carolina University has caught my eye, along with the eyes of hundreds of other journalism professors. Most of us assume that the student media adviser at ECU was fired recently because the student newspaper ran unaltered photos of a streaker at a football game a couple of months ago. Not so fast, the university replies; those photos did not lead to the dismissal.

Having been involved with student journalists and university administrators for 30 years, I am inclined to think the firing was retaliatory. But unless the adviser waives his privacy rights - which ECU has asked him to do - we are unlikely ever to know.

Collegiate journalism never has been easy to understand, and authority lines are far from straight or clear. This is especially so at a state university, where the newspaper uses its facilities and money, and is supported in large part by student fees.

Another question - who is the publisher? - is rarely answered clearly. It could be the chancellor, the media adviser, the media board, student government or some other body.

In 1980, I began my own teaching career at the State University of New York at Cortland. There, the student newspaper raised eyebrows during the Vietnam War by running a pretty obscene photo involving the U.S. flag. College administrators were more amused than outraged, and the matter quickly faded. The photos run in the East Carolinian were not obscene, pornographic or sexual in nature.

In the '70s I occasionally reported on the state university in Binghamton, N.Y., where streaking happened a number of times it was viewed, correctly, as performance art or comedy, not anything prurient in nature. The crowds roared with laughter; they did not gasp in shock.

The problem at ECU has several dimensions, including an academic one. Journalism professors teach the student journalists and view their work in the newspaper with a critical eye, but have no say in editorial content. This is the way it should be; the student newspaper cannot be edited by anyone on
the faculty. And more than that, the newspaper's content should never hinge on any administrative approval.

An undeniable fact in situations like these is that administrators would like to see the student newspaper as a mouthpiece for them, carrying stories and opinions they like, generally placing the institution in a good light. Students just want to cover the issues. This conflict can mean automatic tension for the students.

Administrators are savvy enough to know that bright student journalists are also the ones most likely to regard them with a critical eye, and the urge to keep them under control is great, especially in a time of diminishing resources and legislative suspicion of higher education. But fear and even dislike must not be allowed to prevail in cases where freedom of expression is involved.

What, really, was the harm of the streaker photos? Administrators may have felt embarrassed, and they may have retaliated against the student media adviser, since they could not punish the students. Firing him was an unworthy move if it was based on the photos, and the university should backtrack, apologize and reinstate him. Student journalism is not brain surgery, and mistakes are bound to happen. I'm not saying that running those photos was a mistake, but it really is a teachable moment. A measured reaction - or none at all - was the only sensible response.

The late Dario Politella, one of the great advocates for student journalists in the 1960s and '70s, once said of those journalists: "Train 'em and then trust 'em."

That is good advice for today as well. Student journalists are tomorrow's professionals, and I want to see them ready to report on issues that really matter, that genuinely make a difference.

Fearful administrators who want to meddle would be well advised to sit on their hands and trust the students to practice their journalism and learn as much as they can.

Bob Kochersberger teaches journalism at N.C. State University. He can be reached at bobkochs@gmail.com.
Letter: Error could harm ECU program

Contrary to the Reflector’s recent report of its demise, the jazz program at ECU is alive and well. Your Dec. 27 article reported on the ECU draft report of potential programs for elimination, which the report did in fact list the certificate in jazz studies and the minor in jazz studies as areas that might potentially be eliminated. The actual jazz program, however, is a concentration under the School of Music performance umbrella and is not up for consideration for elimination. In fact, the School of Music recommended that jazz studies was an area worthy of investment.

Your journalistic overstatement may now have serious consequences for this program, both in terms of attracting students and keeping donors interested and invested. A correction on page two, more than a week after the original article was published, will not likely attract much attention.

The fact that the story was picked up by the Associated Press and is now all over the Internet will likely cause real and lasting harm to the School of Music that will not be easy to reverse. This could all have been avoided if you had simply taken the time to pick up the phone and check the facts.

G.J. BURKHEIMER

Greenville
Doctors urged to prepare for reform

By K.j. Williams

Health care workers at a recent symposium in Greenville heard suggestions for improving the delivery of health care to eastern North Carolina, a region challenged by medical issues among some populations. They also were given an overview of the approaching effect of health care reform.

President Barack Obama signed the Affordable Care Act into law in 2010, but the bulk of reform takes effect in 2014.

At the Health Care Reform Symposium on Friday at the East Carolina Heart Institute, Allen Feezor, senior policy adviser with the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services, told the audience that he hoped his remarks on health care reform would prompt them to take action now to prepare for the new law’s effect on their medical practices and facilities in 2014.

Feezor stressed that health care reform is a law despite pending court challenges elsewhere.

“We still seem to talk about health care reform as if it’s a bill,” he said. “The fact of the matter is it is law.”

States that aren’t preparing for the law’s implementation were “bordering on being derelict in (their) duties,” Feezor said.

State officials must manage the law’s enactment under tight timelines. And many key points are resolved by states, including decisions on which benefits are considered essential.

“The heavy lifting is left up to the states,” he said.

Feezor, who said his presentation was a reflection of his own opinions, not those of his department or Gov. Beverly Perdue’s administration, said the law missed some opportunities, including ones aimed at cost containment.

Despite the state’s budget crunch, states need to put the infrastructure in place to enroll the uninsured, a scenario that could cause some initial problems with some enrollments. However, he said North Carolina has the process under way, so it can be ready.
The good news is about a million more people will have health care financing, he said, but the bad news is the increased demand could create a strain on medical practices that aren’t ready for it 20 months from now.

“That’s a big bump for demand on health care services,” he said.

Many people will be served by the tax credit exchange program. In addition, it’s estimated there will be 500,000 to 600,000 new Medicaid recipients, with a “significant number of them in eastern North Carolina,” Feezor said.

About 50,000 small businesses statewide are expected to offer insurance for the first time, and about 250,000 people with individual coverage could switch to the exchange program, he said.

Health care providers can expect to see a surge in demand for services, Feezor said, with people “starting to hit your doors and our clinics” for services.

He urged his audience to be prepared and also to enlist the help of community-based organizations to find the uninsured and begin the enrollment process early on to combat the expected crush.

Providers also need to be ready to generate more data due to the requirements for greater accountability.

The symposium is one of several events that will be held for the health care community to address issues in eastern North Carolina. It was jointly sponsored by ECU’s Brody School of Medicine and University Health Systems of Eastern Carolina.

The public can find out more information on health care reform at the federal website address of HealthCare.gov.

Contact K.J. Williams at kwilliams@reflector.com or 252-329-9588.
ECU 'Joining Forces' with first lady

“I’m inspired to see our nation’s medical schools step up to address this pressing need...”

Michelle Obama
first lady

The Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University is one of more than 100 medical schools nationwide working with first lady Michelle Obama’s Joining Forces project to help those in the armed forces.

Announced Thursday, the collaborative effort aims to better diagnose and treat post traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury in service members and veterans.

Joining Forces, the Association of American Medical Colleges and the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine will work together to better train physicians and medical students to diagnose and treat the medical needs of veterans and their families.

ECU’s focus in the project will be treating traumatic brain injury, according to Dr. Daniel Moore, professor and chair of the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation.

“Our goal is to help share clinical knowledge with the military in the region via telemedicine conferences, visiting sites of clinical service (military here and our faculty visiting their sites) as well as an annual conference to gather the two groups together,” Moore said.

North Carolina is the home of six military bases and a Coast Guard installation, and ECU sees patients from those bases.

“As the most military-friendly state in the nation and a state with countless world-class research universities, North Carolina is prepared to lead the effort to combat PTSD and TBI among our veterans,” said Sen. Kay Hagan in a news release on Thursday. “Our veterans sacrifice so much to protect our nation, and it is our duty to provide them with accessible and comprehensive health care. PTSD and TBI have plagued far too many of our brave men and women in uniform, and I am proud that these outstanding
North Carolina universities have stepped up to the plate to solve these unique challenges and improve the lives of our veterans.”

The medical schools at Wake Forest University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill also are participating in the project.

“I’m inspired to see our nation’s medical schools step up to address this pressing need for our veterans and military families,” Obama said in a news release. “By directing some of our brightest minds, our most cutting-edge research, and our finest teaching institutions toward our military families, they’re ensuring that those who have served our country receive the first-rate care that they have earned.”

ECU physicians at the Brody School of Medicine treat members of the military and veterans with traumatic brain injury, and scientists in other parts of the university are studying ways to help troops and veterans recover from traumatic brain injury and PTSD. The university’s Operation Re-Entry program is developing model ways to help injured veterans.

“I think it’s about time we shed light and importance on (PTSD),” said Dr. Carmen Russoniello, a psychophysiology in the ECU College of Health and Human Performance.

A Vietnam veteran who dealt with PTSD himself, Russoniello said no standard way exists to diagnose, much less treat, the condition.

He has a pair of Department of Defense grants to study methods such as biofeedback to help troops with PTSD symptoms.

“It’s not a mental health disorder,” he said. “What occurs is that people’s systems get shocked and don’t know what normal is anymore.”

Obama and Dr. Jill Biden, wife of Vice President Joe Biden, created Joining Forces to support veterans and military families.

More information is available online at http://www.JoiningForces.gov.
Suspect charged in sorority break-in

Greenville police have an ECU student in custody and are searching for a second suspect in connection to a break-in at a sorority house near campus early Wednesday morning.

Police spokesman Sgt. Carlton Williams confirmed that police arrested Michael Ferguson, 19, at 4:17 a.m. on Wednesday for the break-in at the Delta Zeta sorority house at 801 East Fifth St.

Williams said that Ferguson tried to break into the sorority house about 3:30 a.m. on Wednesday by pushing in an unlocked door.

He was confronted by a resident once he got inside and ran from the scene. Nothing was stolen and no one in the house was hurt, Williams said.

ECU Police sent out an alert after the break-in and instructed students to lock their doors and to properly secure them.

Officers from ECU Police and the Greenville Police Department searched the area and located Ferguson nearby.

“He was caught shortly after the incident,” Williams said.

Ferguson was charged with first-degree attempted burglary and consuming alcohol by a 19 or 20 year old.

He was taken to the Pitt County Detention Center and placed under a $25,500 bond.

Williams said on Friday that police are trying to locate a second suspect in the break-in.

“The detectives are obtaining a warrant for another suspect,” Williams said. “He should be in custody soon.”

Anyone with information about the break-in can call Pitt-Greenville CrimeStoppers at 758-7777 or text “PITTGV” along with their information to 274637.
Ross, no gloss

It may rank as the biggest test yet for Tom Ross, who has just marked his first anniversary as president of the University of North Carolina system. After huge budget losses courtesy of the General Assembly, some individual campus chancellors and trustees, along with some members of the UNC system's Board of Governors, have looked to substantial boosts in tuition to recover some of that money.

That inclination, when a public university education at UNC-Chapel Hill, for example, is rated as the best bargain in higher education and other sister institutions also rank highly, is understandable. It is motivated by a sincere desire on the part of chancellors to maintain reasonable class sizes and good choices in courses, along with enrollment increases.

But Ross has passed his test in signaling to the Board of Governors last week that he wants an average system-wide tuition increase to be below the 9.3 percent boost of last year. His position, which runs counter to the wishes of chancellors at the big research institutions in Chapel Hill and Raleigh, recognizes that the constituents of those and other institutions are in many cases struggling, that they have been hit with a number of increases over the last decade, and that the university must remain true to its commitment to provide an accessible education for North Carolina's young people.

The tuition hikes proposed at UNC-CH and at N.C State, 11.4 percent and 10.4 percent respectively, are larger than the president's figure. It is hoped that trustees at those institutions will respect his wishes.

The president is not without an outline to cope with the budget cuts. Ross says he will emphasize four principles in terms of financing: saving money, raising more private money, maintaining taxpayer support as the main source of funding (that percentage varies from school to school) and yes, using tuition dollars.

Certainly the university system has been handsomely supported by taxpayers since its formation. Under President William Friday and his successors, legislators were strong backers of the system. But it's fair in these times to ask the institutions to watch their expenditures more closely and to constantly look for savings (particularly in administration).
It's also not unreasonable, and this is important, for Ross and campus leaders to press the General Assembly to restore funding to some degree to a system that has paid tremendous dividends to taxpayers over many decades. Simply leaving intact a temporary sales tax would have raised $1 billion for the state budget, money that could have addressed needs in education and many other areas. Republican leaders on Jones Street must not squander the historic investment in higher education that has served this state with profound results.
Nailing theses to UNC's door

By Taylor Batten

Bosses don't usually appreciate the previous boss hanging around, telling them what to do. This time, though, was different - up to a point.

New UNC President Tom Ross is more than equipped to handle the job of overseeing the 16-campus system. But he has moved into the president's Chapel Hill office at an historic time, when the very mission of the university system is threatened by hundreds of millions of dollars in budget cuts brought on by an enduring economic slowdown.

So when his predecessors were asked to give Ross some advice, he was happy to listen. He got an earful, especially from Charlotte's Dick Spangler, whose love for the university prevents him from politely holding his tongue.

Spangler, Ross and the only other three UNC presidents of the modern era - Bill Friday, Molly Broad and Erskine Bowles - came together in November for a panel discussion. Their talk aired on public television last week.

After 40 minutes or so of mostly niceties, moderator Jim Holshouser, the former governor, asked the former presidents what advice they would give Ross.

By that point, "I had heard too much apple pie and motherhood," Spangler told me.
Spangler, president from 1986 to 1997, fired off 10 specific things the UNC system should do during the next two years to cut costs. He went after some sacred cows. Ross, responding to Spangler's ideas in a memo to the Board of Governors last week, was gracious but made clear he doesn't see Spangler's proposals as being particularly helpful.

Here are Spangler's 10, which he proposes be in effect for the next two years, with a very brief summary of Ross's response. Ross's full response is available with this column at www.charlotteobserver.com/opinion.

1. **Stop sabbaticals.** Ross: Many campuses offer few or none, and this would save less than $1 million.

2. **Freeze salaries for employees making more than $100,000.** Ross: They haven't gotten raises in four years and probably won't anytime soon.

3. **Cut administrative expenses at all campuses and within system administration by 10 percent.** Ross: We'll always look for efficiencies, but we've cut these expenses for six years and are now "dangerously thin."

4. **Stop all out-of-state travel not explicitly approved by Ross and the Board of Governors.** Ross: We'll review it, but faculty travel is frequently required to do important work.

5. **Restrict scholarship funds to in-state students.** Ross: The little bit of this that exists is needed for our graduate programs to be competitive.

6. **Postpone all athletic facility expansion.** Ross: Worth considering, but would help only students with lower fees and wouldn't save any state money.

7. **Raise tuition on out-of-state students to the full cost of their education.** Ross: This is already in place.

8. **Get the 1,000 richest North Carolinians to give gifts supporting 10 in-state students each.** Ross: I support this, and all our campuses continuously seek gifts from potential donors.

9. **Transfer all registered nursing programs to the community colleges.** Ross: A huge nursing shortage looms, and we need all the nursing schools we have.

10. **Delay all new degree/program expansions.** Ross: UNC already has a strong system for considering requests for new academic degree programs, and a task force is looking at how to make it even stronger.
Both Ross and Spangler are intelligent, well-intentioned men who deeply love the University of North Carolina system and want to keep quality and accessibility high. Their exchange helps show just how challenging a problem UNC faces.

All of this was in the background last week as the Board of Governors contemplated an issue that helps define the system's very character: Tuition hikes. Faced with close to $500 million in cuts mandated by the legislature, chancellors are asking the board to approve sizable tuition increases. UNC Asheville seeks a 13.5 percent hike this year; UNC Chapel Hill, 11.4 percent; UNC Charlotte, 7.8 percent.

Article IX, Section 9 of the N.C. Constitution specifies that the UNC system must "as far as practicable, be extended to the people of the State free of expense."

That's in increasing danger. The UNC system is one of the most important institutions to this state's future. It's where 220,000 students are educated each year, where they become leaders, where they gain the tools necessary to earn an income and improve the state. As students are priced out by higher tuition, North Carolina's future is diminished.

"The university is the university of all the people," Friday, the legendary first president of the modern-day system, said. "The university, and all of its campuses, is the engine that produces the people who will lead this state in the next half century. We have got to be about making certain that it will continue to draw the talent regardless of the cost."

Ross said last week that he'll recommend single-digit tuition hikes this year. Each of the four prongs in his approach is essential: Cut costs, bring in more private donations, raise tuition slowly and maintain taxpayer support as the primary source of funding.

That last piece is crucial. As the economy rebounds in coming years, North Carolinians must remind the legislature that the UNC system is a national gem, and should be treated as such.

Reach me at tbatten@charlotteobserver.com.
Under the Dome:

UNC-CH escapes budget penalty this year

From staff reports

UNC-Chapel Hill exceeded the 18 percent cap on out-of-state freshmen for two years in a row, which calls for a budget penalty under UNC Board of Governors policy.

On Friday, though, the UNC board waived what would have been a $334,652 budget reduction for UNC-CH's over-enrollment of 24 out-of-state first-year students. The fee would have gone to a need-based financial aid program for North Carolinians.

Board members voted to waive the penalty, saying it would have been too harsh given the 17.9 percent state budget cut UNC-CH sustained this year. Also, they said, because state law last year changed the way some out-of-state students are classified, it resulted in the campus inadvertently missing the 18 percent mark a year ago.

This year, UNC-CH's first-year class was 18.6 percent out-of-state students. UNC President Tom Ross said assembling a first-year class is more art than science, and campuses can't precisely predict who will accept offers of admission.

The system is developing a policy that would measure out-of-state enrollment on a three-year rolling average instead, he said.

They say 'no' to tuition hikes

While on the topic of tuition, in an unusual move this week, 20 former Board of Governors members signed a letter asking the current board to reject the double-digit percentage tuition increases proposed by some of the UNC campuses.

More are expected to sign the letter, which was organized by a former board chairman, William Johnson of Lillington. Former UNC President C.D. Spangler Jr., long a staunch advocate for low tuition, also signed the document.

Besides Johnson and Spangler, the signers are Irvin Aldridge, Teresa Bullock, Laurence Cobb, Early Danieley, Ray Farris, Phil Haire, Roddy Jones, Bob Jordan, Jack Jordan, John Jordan, Ralph Kinsey Jr., Betty Ray
McCain, Martha McNair, Ellen Newbold, Charles Norwood Jr., Sam Poole, H.D. Reaves Jr., John Sanders and David Whichard.

Will the new Republican majority UNC board take heed? We'll know in February.

"It is a meaningful communication," current Chairwoman Hannah Gage said of the letter. "They have been in our shoes. The times were different, perhaps, but some things don't change."

Perdue one to watch

Gov. Bev Perdue joined Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Majority Leader Nancy Pelosi on The Political Girl website's list of 12 Political Women to Watch in 2012. The website features news, fashion and photos of leading political women. Except for Ginsburg, all of the women listed are Democrats or work for President Barack Obama's administration.

The Political Girl's take on Perdue:

As the first woman governor of North Carolina, Gov. Perdue made history in 2008. In a tight race against Pat McCrory, she was able hold off the Charlotte Mayor and edge him off with a 50-46 margin. However, with McCrory throwing his hat in again this go around, Gov. Perdue is taking her case to the people in her state to remain the only Democratic female governor in the country.

Stancill: 919-829-4559 or jstancill@newsobserver.com
Scotty McCreery might be the reigning "American Idol" but he is still trying to be a regular teenager. Recently, he went to the Lowes Foods and remembered his former job of bagging groceries.

"I do the self-checkout, so I can see if I still got it," McCreery said.

The 18-year-old senior at Garner Magnet High School is also thinking about college. He has applied to Belmont University in Nashville, Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, Tenn., North Carolina State University and East Carolina University.

"We might be applying to a couple more," he said. "We're just waiting to hear back. Haven't heard anything back from any of them yet."

McCreery said he is enjoying balancing his time between music and school.

"It's kind of back and forth – on the road and back at school and back home," he said. "But it's fun for me."

McCreery was able to meld his two worlds together a few months ago when he filmed his music video "The Trouble with Girls" at Garner Magnet High. The clip featured cameos by his friends and classmates.

"They were loving it. You should have been at school the next day hearing them all in the hallways talking about how they were in the video and which
scene they were in," he said. "They enjoyed the brief little glimpse into what my life is like. They were all (saying) 'You have to go through this every day?' I'm like, 'Yeah.'"

During the holidays, McCreery tried to find some anonymity. He participated in Operation Christmas Child, a trip sponsored by Samaritan's Purse to bring gifts to children in the Dominican Republic.

"That was an incredible moment for me that I will never forget," he said. "Just being able to give them the box of gifts and see them when they opened it and their faces light up."

McCreery said it was great to be able to share the moments with the children and not have them identify him as the "American Idol."

"They didn't know me, which is kind of good. I didn't want them to. I just wanted to be there and be under the radar," he said.

Now, McCreery is on the road with country superstar Brad Paisley mostly in the northwest.

"Anywhere it's cold, that's where we're going to be" he said.

When McCreery is done touring in March, he hopes to be back pitching with the Garner Magnet High baseball team.

"I'm just looking forward to getting back out there and being on the mound. I don't know how much I've got left in the ol' arm. I've been away from it for awhile, but I'm going to give it my best," he said.

McCreery even made a New Year's resolution to get in shape.

"Today, I actually went to Bojangles and instead of getting fried chicken, I got grilled chicken," he said. "I'm telling you. I'm making a step."

Reporter: Debra Morgan
Photographer: Greg Clark
Web Editor: Kathy Hanrahan
ECU Notes

**Biology professor to oversee $1.5M grant**

ECU News Services

An East Carolina University professor will oversee a $1.5 million grant funding research into what lies underneath the Earth’s oceans and continents.

The grant was awarded by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation’s Deep Carbon Observatory. Dr. Matt Schrenk, an assistant professor of biology at ECU, will serve as the principal investigator, teaming with nine other primary scientists and researchers around the world.

The main goal is to better understand what goes on in subsurface environments and how the microbes that live there survive. No one knows how they eat or grow, Schrenk said, or how they react to certain elements or why they are often brightly colored.

Studies of the habitats are limited because areas existing kilometers below the Earth’s surface — and sometimes covered with water — are hard to reach.
However, the total biomass living there is expected to equal the amount we see on the surface.

“Most … think all there is to life is here on the surface,” Schrenk said. “We just need more data on these systems.”

Three types of field sites are incorporated in the grant research: Deep fractures in continental rocks, groundwater wells in rocks pushed up over time from the ocean crust, and hydrothermal vents on the ocean floor.

Research applications could be wide ranging, Schrenk said.

Deep earth rocks react with water to produce large amounts of hydrogen and methane gas, so they are seen as a potential sources of alternative energy, he said.

The way the sites absorb and react to carbon could be relevant to climate change studies, and understanding how the earth has and might react to increasing levels of carbon, Schrenk said.

The balance between the carbon in the earth and carbon in the atmosphere is important in regulating climate, he said.

It could also inform the ways life might develop on other planets, Schrenk said, because certain reactions between water and rocks are believed to have contributed to the origins of life on Earth.

“This is one of the biggest collaborative grants that I have seen come through for Arts and Sciences, particularly from a nonprofit,” said Melody Bentz, grants officer in the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences Office of Research.

Schrenk said the work brings various disciplines together, including biology, chemistry and geology.

He expects his two-year stint leading the research only will lay the groundwork for scientists to come.

Learn more about the goals of the Deep Carbon Observatory’s Deep Life program at https://dco.gl.ciw.edu/science/deep-life.

**College of Business holds Declaration Day**

The College of Business welcomed business students on Tuesday with its inaugural Declaration Day, when eligible undergraduate students officially declare their specific concentration within the college.

The event will be held in both spring and fall semesters going forward.
The college honored students with a pinning ceremony before breaking them into their various concentrations including accounting, finance, management, management information systems, marketing, and operations and supply chain management.

Once in smaller groups, students met with faculty members to learn more about their specialty.

College of Business Dean Stanley Eakins said, “When our business students declare a concentration, it is a significant event in their progress toward graduation. Declaration Day recognizes this milestone and helps integrate students even more into the college.”

Poet featured at Greenville Gallery

North Carolina poet James Applewhite, Greenville’s City Art Gallery, and the North Carolina Literary Review (NCLR) will collaborate on the second annual exhibit of original art inspired by the poet’s work.

The show will feature the work of artists who have used paint, photography, sculpture and ceramics to interpret selected poems.

City Art Gallery owner Torrey Stroud will host the opening from 6 to 8 p.m. on Friday.

Applewhite will read his poems at 7 p.m. The exhibit will run through Feb. 11 at City Art Gallery, 511 Red Banks Road, Greenville.

The idea was suggested by artist Louis St. Lewis, a fan of poetry and short stories, whose work has been selected for inclusion in past issues of NCLR. “This was an invitational for a group of artists we represent,” Stroud said of last year’s event. “We consulted with Diane Rodman (NCLR’s Art Editor) to decide on the poet.”

NCLR Editor Margaret Bauer will introduce the poet and welcome him “home” to eastern North Carolina. Applewhite was born in Stantonsburg and is retired from Duke University after almost 40 years on the faculty. He has received the North Carolina Award for Literature and is a 2008 inductee into the N.C. Literary Hall of Fame.

His next book, due out in 2013 from LSU Press, will be his 12th volume of poetry. His work has been featured in several issues of NCLR.

The NCLR is published annually by ECU and the North Carolina Literary and Historical Association. The first online edition, which will include art
from last year’s Applewhite invitational exhibit, is due in February. The
print issue will be out in the summer.
For more information, visit NCLR’s website at www.nclr.ecu.edu.

**ECU vascular center reaccredited**
The Vascular Imaging Center at the East Carolina Heart Institute at ECU has
received national reaccreditation.
The Intersocietal Commission for the Accreditation of Vascular Laboratories
has granted a three-year accreditation to the center.
Accreditation by ICAVL means the center has undergone a thorough review
of its operational and technical components by a panel of experts. ICAVL
grants accreditation only to those facilities that are found to be providing
quality patient care in compliance with national standards through a
comprehensive application process. The center has been accredited since
1996.
The Vascular Imaging Center performs multiple noninvasive vascular exams
that evaluate the carotid artery and abdominal and extremity blood vessels.
Such tests provide information for early detection and maintenance of
vascular disease that could lead to stroke, aneurysm, peripheral arterial
disease or other vascular disorders.
Dr. William M. Bogey Jr., professor of vascular surgery at ECU, serves as
the medical director of the center. Pam Joyner, a registered vascular
technologist and registered diagnostic medical sonographer, is technical
director. The center is part of ECU Physicians, the group medical practice of
the Brody School of Medicine.

**Upcoming Events:**
**Tuesday:** Annual Martin Luther King Celebration featuring Julianne
Malveaux, president of Bennett College for Women, 7 p.m., East Carolina
Heart Institute at ECU. Sponsored by the Office of Equity, Diversity and
Community Relations. Call 328-6804 for more information.
**Friday:** New York Voices in concert, 8 p.m., Wright Auditorium, part of the
S. Rudolph Alexander Performing Arts Series 50th anniversary season.
Ticketed event. Call ECU Central Ticket Office at 328-4788 or 800-ECU-
ARTS.
See www.ecu.edu/cs-ecu/calendar.cfm for times, places and more
information on these events and other ECU upcoming activities.
RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — Health and Human Services Secretary Lanier Cansler will leave Gov. Beverly Perdue's Cabinet at the end of the month after three years running one of the largest and most complicated departments in state government and return to the private sector.

Perdue announced Friday that Cansler, a Republican in a Democratic administration, would head a new commission that the governor has yet to assemble on affordable health care in the state.

The governor's senior policy adviser — Al Delia — will become acting HHS secretary early next month. The department receives $4.5 billion in state funds, or nearly one-quarter of the state's budget, to run Medicaid, mental health facilities, social services and other health programs.

Cansler's last day will be Jan. 31, according to department spokeswoman Renee McCoy. Cansler was unavailable for an interview late Friday because McCoy said he was talking to staff about the transition. He was quoted in Perdue's release as saying he had been honored to serve on Perdue's staff "as she steered the state through incredibly difficult times and stabilized North Carolina's fiscal house."

"We cut spending, eliminated waste and consolidated agencies — all to make state government more efficient without neglecting our core mission of serving the people," Cansler, 58, said in a prepared statement.

Cansler's department had taken heat recently from Republican legislators for managing the Medicaid program and the costs related to a new claims processing system. Cansler and other Perdue administration members had been at odds with the Legislature in the past few months over how to close a Medicaid budget shortfall of nearly $150 million.

Cansler largely had taken a more moderating tone while dealing with the GOP leaders at the Legislature compared to Delia and others, who had been speaking out more forcefully against Republicans about the Medicaid hole and the blame for it.
Perdue said in the statement she will miss Cansler's "calm, wise advice" but that she would "continue to rely on his counsel."

"The state is better for his service," she added.

Cansler, from Asheville, served in the state House for three full terms before leaving in 2001 to become deputy HHS secretary in Gov. Mike Easley's administration under then-Secretary Carmen Hooker Odom. He left in 2005 and started a consulting business that was involved in department issues.

Cansler's consulting clients included Computer Sciences Corp., which landed a contract announced in late 2008 to complete an overhaul of North Carolina's Medicaid billing system. The project has yet to be completed, and a state audit finalized for release this week said a Medicaid agency didn't fully document details on how the delays came about.

Cansler said he's kept the project at arm's length while secretary and hasn't been involved in the contract details to avoid conflict-of-interest issues. He wrote a missive released Tuesday with the performance audit to State Auditor Beth Wood's Office criticizing the work of auditors.

Delia, a former East Carolina University administrator, is a "trusted adviser" to Perdue who will be ready to go to work when he assumes the post, Perdue spokesman Mark Johnson said. Asked why Delia was named an acting replacement, Johnson said Delia and the governor "will assess the long term leadership needs and structure at the department."
A.R. Chesson awarded contract for dental service learning center

A.R. Chesson Construction Co. Inc. has been awarded a contract for construction of the East Carolina University School of Dental Medicine Community Service Learning Center No. 2 in Elizabeth City.

The ECU School of Dental Medicine plans to create 10 community service learning centers to be located in rural and underserved areas throughout the state. Fourth-year ECU dental students will learn and provide care for the community for one year.

The Elizabeth City project consists of the construction of a 7,700-square-foot structural steel and masonry building with all site improvements. Groundbreaking is scheduled for mid-January with completion in September.

A.R. Chesson Construction, which celebrated 30 years in business in 2011, specializes in design/build construction, project management and development services for new construction, renovation and expansion. Offices are in Williamston, Elizabeth City and Manteo.
Three pediatric doctors join medical school staff

Dr. Stacey Applegate, Dr. Matthew Ledoux and Dr. Mia Pingul, all of whom are pediatric doctors, have joined the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University and its group medical practice, ECU Physicians.

Applegate, a pediatric cardiologist, has joined the Department of Pediatrics as a clinical assistant professor. She is a graduate of the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine and completed residency training in pediatrics at the Brody School of Medicine and Pitt County Memorial Hospital. She completed a fellowship in pediatric cardiology at the University of Virginia Medical Center.

Applegate also has a master’s degree in clinical research from the University of Virginia.

Applegate is board-certified in pediatrics. Her clinical and research interest is children and young adults with structural heart disease.

Applegate sees patients at the East Carolina Heart Institute at 115 Heart Drive. Appointments are available by calling 744-5601.

Ledoux has joined the Department of Pediatrics’ critical care division as an assistant professor. He comes to ECU from St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital in Memphis, Tenn., where he was a staff intensivist.

Ledoux has a medical degree from the American University of the Caribbean School of Medicine and completed a combined internal medicine-pediatrics residency program at the Brody School of Medicine and Pitt County memorial Hospital. He also completed a pediatric critical care fellowship at the University of Virginia.

Ledoux is board-certified in pediatrics. His clinical and research interests are medical education, cardiac critical care and extracorporeal membrane oxygenation, a technique of providing cardiac and respiratory support to patients whose hearts and lungs are so diseased or damaged they can no longer serve their function.

Ledoux sees patients at the pediatric intensive care unit at PCMH.

Pingul, a pediatric endocrinologist, has joined the department as a clinical assistant professor. She has a medical degree from University of the City of
Manila, Philippines, and completed residency training in pediatrics at the University of Nevada School of Medicine in Las Vegas.

She also completed a fellowship in pediatric endocrinology and metabolism at Brown University in Providence, R.I.

Pingul is board-certified in pediatrics. Her clinical and research interests are general endocrinology, diabetes education and maturity onset diabetes of the young, which is any of several hereditary forms of diabetes caused by mutations that disrupt insulin production.

Pingul sees patients at the ECU Pediatrics Specialty Care practice at 2150 Herbert Court in Greenville. Appointments are available by calling 744-2516.
UNC to review practices for coaches contracts

BY JANE STANCILL - jstancill@newsobserver.com

CHAPEL HILL–Former UNC-Chapel Hill Athletics Director Dick Baddour will lead a UNC system group that will study the best practices in coaches contracts, UNC system President Tom Ross announced Friday.

The panel will look at what elements should be included in contracts, including language about academic performance of team members, Ross said. That effort could result in policy recommendations to the UNC Board of Governors.

Ross said a review of contracts is in order "to be sure we're thoughtful and careful about the legal language but also to be certain that we take into account academics as well as athletics when it comes to any kind of incentives."

On Dec. 9, the North Carolina board of trustees approved a 7-year contract worth $1.7 million a year for new Tar Heels football coach Larry Fedora.

Baddour retired last fall after 15 years as North Carolina athletics director. Athletics directors and legal counsel from various campuses will join the group, Ross said, and will be appointed in the next few weeks.

The panel could make recommendations for guidelines or a template for contracts.

"It's an issue where you don't want to impede a campus' ability to be competitive in the search for a coach, but at the same time we need to be thoughtful about how we do business at our institutions," Ross said.

Last month, Ross convened athletics directors from 15 UNC campuses with intercollegiate athletics programs to discuss recommendations by a system-wide task force on sports programs and academics. The group reached consensus on issues around system oversight and monitoring, admissions processes for at-risk students, ethical standards for student-athletes and academic support staff and tutors, Ross said.

The ADs are expected to meet again in the near future to talk about compliance operations and independent reviews of compliance and athletics programs.
Ross said the group suggested the athletics directors meet regularly to share ideas, and he plans to follow through on that.

The UNC Task Force on Athletics and Academics was formed last year amid an NCAA investigation of North Carolina's football program. In August, the panel made recommendations about greater oversight by the UNC system, careful screening of tutors and better integrating athletics programs into universities academic missions.

"All coaches should be held accountable for the academic success of the student-athlete and understand that they are instrumental in the academic success of student-athletes," the report said. "Many institutions are including various measures of academic performance in coaches contracts."

Stancill: 919-829-4559